

AMENDED IN SENATE JULY 2, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 16, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 974

Introduced by Assembly Member Hall

February 22, 2013

An act to amend Section 1317.2 of the Health and Safety Code, relating to health facilities.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 974, as amended, Hall. Patient transfer: nonmedical reasons: notice to contact person or next of kin.

Existing law establishes the State Department of Public Health and sets forth its powers and duties, including, but not limited to, the licensing and regulation of health facilities, as defined. Existing law prohibits the transfer of a person needing emergency services from one hospital to another for any nonmedical reason unless prescribed conditions are met. A knowing and intentional violation of those provisions is a crime.

This bill would, in addition, require that, prior to a transfer of a patient for a nonmedical reason, the hospital ask the patient if there is a preferred contact person—~~who should~~ *to* be notified, and make a reasonable attempt to contact that person and alert him or her about the proposed transfer, and, if the patient is not able to respond, require that the hospital make a reasonable effort to ascertain the identity of the preferred contact person or the next of kin and alert him or her about the transfer. *The bill would require that the hospital document any attempts to contact a preferred contact person or next of kin in the*

patient's medical record. Because a knowing and intentional violation of these requirements would be a crime, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement.

This bill would provide that no reimbursement is required by this act for a specified reason.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 1317.2 of the Health and Safety Code is
2 amended to read:

3 1317.2. ~~No~~A person needing emergency services and care ~~may~~
4 *shall not* be transferred from a hospital to another hospital for any
5 nonmedical reason (such as the person's inability to pay for any
6 emergency service or care) unless each of the following conditions
7 are met:

8 (a) The person is examined and evaluated by a physician and
9 surgeon, including, if necessary, consultation, prior to transfer.

10 (b) The person has been provided with emergency services and
11 care so that it can be determined, within reasonable medical
12 probability, that the transfer or delay caused by the transfer will
13 not create a medical hazard to the person.

14 (c) A physician and surgeon at the transferring hospital has
15 notified and has obtained the consent to the transfer by a physician
16 and surgeon at the receiving hospital and confirmation by the
17 receiving hospital that the person meets the hospital's admissions
18 criteria relating to appropriate bed, personnel, and equipment
19 necessary to treat the person.

20 (d) The transferring hospital provides for appropriate personnel
21 and equipment ~~which~~ *that* a reasonable and prudent physician and
22 surgeon in the same or similar locality exercising ordinary care
23 would use to effect the transfer.

24 (e) All of the person's pertinent medical records and copies of
25 all the appropriate diagnostic test results that are reasonably
26 available are transferred with the person.

1 (f) The records transferred with the person include a “Transfer
2 Summary” signed by the transferring physician and surgeon ~~which~~
3 ~~that~~ contains relevant transfer information. The form of the
4 “Transfer Summary” shall, at a minimum, contain the person’s
5 name, address, sex, race, age, insurance status, and medical
6 condition; the name and address of the transferring physician and
7 surgeon or emergency department personnel authorizing the
8 transfer; the time and date the person was first presented at the
9 transferring hospital; the name of the physician and surgeon at the
10 receiving hospital consenting to the transfer and the time and date
11 of the consent; the time and date of the transfer; the reason for the
12 transfer; and the declaration of the signor that the signor is assured,
13 within reasonable medical probability, that the transfer creates no
14 medical hazard to the patient. Neither the transferring physician
15 and surgeon nor transferring hospital shall be required to duplicate,
16 in the “Transfer Summary,” information contained in medical
17 records transferred with the person.

18 (g) The transfer conforms with regulations established by the
19 state department. These regulations may prescribe minimum
20 protocols for patient transfers.

21 (h) ~~The patient is first~~ *shall be* asked if there is a preferred
22 contact person ~~who should~~ *to be* notified; and, prior to the transfer,
23 the hospital ~~makes~~ *shall make* a reasonable attempt to contact that
24 person and alert him or her about the proposed transfer, *in*
25 *accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 56.1007 of the Civil*
26 *Code.* If the patient is not able to respond, the hospital shall make
27 a reasonable effort to ascertain the identity of the preferred contact
28 person or the next of kin and alert him or her about the transfer,
29 *in accordance with subdivision (b) of Section 56.1007 of the Civil*
30 *Code. The hospital shall document in the patient’s medical record*
31 *any attempts to contact a preferred contact person or next of kin.*

32 (i) ~~Nothing in this~~ This section shall *not* apply to a transfer of
33 a patient for medical reasons.

34 (j) ~~Nothing in this~~ This section shall *not* prohibit the transfer or
35 discharge of a patient when the patient or the patient’s
36 representative requests a transfer or discharge and gives informed
37 consent to the transfer or discharge against medical advice.

38 SEC. 2. No reimbursement is required by this act pursuant to
39 Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California Constitution because
40 the only costs that may be incurred by a local agency or school

1 district will be incurred because this act creates a new crime or
2 infraction, eliminates a crime or infraction, or changes the penalty
3 for a crime or infraction, within the meaning of Section 17556 of
4 the Government Code, or changes the definition of a crime within
5 the meaning of Section 6 of Article XIII B of the California
6 Constitution.

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